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July 29, 1991

Mr. Tony Ogden
Director/Treasurer
EPOC
P.O. Box 4668
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Mr. Ogden:

You may remember me from previous encounters back in February, at State Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the revised Ethnic Harassment Bill, and on the Peter Boyle radio show several days later. By very nearly the time this letter reaches you, Colorado for Family Values, a statetwide coalition of concerned citizens, of which I and Kevin Tebedo are Co-Chairmen, will file proposed ballot initiative language with the Colorado Secretary of State's office, whose goal will be to prevent sexual orientation from securing special, protected class status under Colorado civil rights laws.

It is CFV's sincere conviction that our State's civil rights laws were not intended to give protected status to sexual orientation, including homosexuality, bisexuality and lesbianism. Civil rights have historically been granted on the basis of characteristics determinable at birth, such as race, color, gender, national origin or being physically handicapped.

None of these characteristics now protected by civil rights laws are behavioral in nature. Sexual orientation is behavioral, and not, we believe, a characteristic comparable to ethnicity.

It is the goal of CVF to gather the necessary signatures to put the initiative on the November, 1992, General Election Ballot, as a proposed constitutional amendment, specifically as Article 2, Section 30. We are launching this initiative drive largely in response to recent activity to secure protected class status for "sexual orientation" here in Colorado Springs, in Denver, through a pro-sexual orientation ordinance, and Statewide, through an attempt to attach protection for sexual orientation to the State's Ethnic Harassment Bill, speculations by Rabbi Foster of the State Civil Rights Commission (and EPOC, we notice) and Governor Roy Roehmer's December 1990 Executive Order, protecting sexual orientation in State agency hiring.

We fully expect debate on this issue to be as lively as it is prolonged. I'd like in this letter to apprise you of how we intend to conduct our side of this campaign.

We intend to oppose sexual orientation rights peaceably and responsibly. We wholeheartedly affirm the right of Colorado's homosexual/bisexual/lesbian citizens to call attention to, and, through our system of government, promote their agenda. We do not wish to see those practicing diverse sexual behaviors deprived of a single right that is legitimately theirs under our Federal and State Constitutions.

But we are concerned over the expressed fears of "gays" that such a campaign as will be conducted over this issue will result in heckling, protest or violent abuse of those practicing their behaviors.

Let me say at the outset that as responsible, law-abiding citizens, we intend to do all within our power to ensure that **no unpleasantness** takes place. We would be greatly distressed to see Colorado's "gay" citizens victimized by any sort of abuse. (Note: We do not regard the citing of authentic, documented medical information about homosexual behavior as "abuse.") As long as it is perceived that untoward situations may arise, we will attempt to the utmost to assure our state that those responsibly opposing the "gay rights" agenda will not be a part of any difficulty. Our goal is not to arouse hatred, but in fact to extend a hand of hope to "gays." Our opposition is not to the humanity of "gays," but to the granting of legal sanction and special rights to homosexual/bisexual/lesbian behavior.

In other words, we intend to keep the conduct of our campaign civil -- and we sincerely hope that you plan to conduct your campaign in the same spirit. Surely, unpleasant incidents would gain neither your side nor mine the slightest public favor or advantage. Recently, people on both sides of this issue were able to thus "agreeably disagree" during the Human Rights Ordinance debate here in Colorado Springs.

May our respective campaigns in the days ahead be conducted in like manner! If you have any questions, feel free to call me or CFV's Co-Chairman, Kevin Tebedo, at one of the phone numbers above. We look forward to dialoguing with you further.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Marco

Tony Marco, Co-Chairman
Colorado for Family Values

TM/am
cc: The Press